

Section: Division of Nursing
Approval: _____

PROTOCOL

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HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Originator: E. Sweeney, RN
Revised by: T. Fitzgerald, RN, BSN

PACU
(Scope)

TITLE: LARYNGOSPASM

PURPOSE: To relieve reflex closure of glottis.

LEVEL: Interdependent

SUPPORTIVE DATA: Causes: stimulation of pharyngeal tissues or vocal cords by secretions or foreign bodies.
Symptoms:

- High pitched crowing sound due to partial closure of vocal cords.
- No audible sounds with complete laryngospasm.
- Sternal retractions and decreased chest excursions.

CONTENT:

1. Provide a head tilt or anterior mandibular displacement.
2. Provide positive pressure ventilation with ambu bag with 100% O₂.
3. Suction as indicated to remove secretions or foreign material from vocal cords.
4. Notify anesthesiologist.
5. Have Succinylcholine available for administration.
6. Have endotracheal intubation available by bringing code cart to bedside.

DOCUMENTATION:

1. Document occurrence in Nurses Narrative Section of PACU Record.
2. Document vital signs.
3. Document medications given.
4. Document patient's response to treatment.

REFERENCE: Peri Anesthesia Nursing Care Curriculum: Preoperative, Phase I and Phase II PACU Nursing. (Saunders) 2004. Quinn, Donna and Schick, Lois p 527